

# **Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention WIC Nutrition Program**

## **Department of Health and Human Services**

Effective: October 1, 2011

Revised: August 1, 2014

Policy No. FMNP-3

### **High-Risk Farmer Identification Systems**

#### **Authority**

7 CFR §248.4(a)(10)(iv) and §248.10(e);

22 MRSA §255 and §1951

#### **Policy**

- A high-risk farmer shall be identified by the State Agency as a farmer having a high probability of committing a farmer violation, including those farmers who are in their first year of FMNP operation. The State Agency shall utilize, but is not limited to, the following criteria to make its determination:
  - Participant/staff complaints and/or observations
  - Review of farmer redemption reports and queries
  - Farmer history of program violations/non-compliance
  - Suspicious pattern of redemptions
  - Previous WIC, SNAP, or FMNP suspension
  - SNAP determination of high risk

#### **Procedures**

1. The State Agency shall maintain a formal system for receiving complaints about farmers through the following:
  - 1.1 A toll-free number handled by State Agency staff
  - 1.2 A standard complaint form that the complainant sends to the State Agency
  - 1.3 E-mail

2. In its high-risk vendor analysis, the State Agency shall use:
  - 2.1 Participant complaints
  - 2.2 A three-month aggregate of the vendor's redemptions
3. Farmer redemption patterns are compared to patterns of other farmers.
4. The State Agency shall identify high-risk farmers and generate high-risk farmer reports at least once per year.